THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) During the year 1987, 188 searches under the Special Drives were conducted by the CBI on the residential/office premises of Central Government officials.

(b) A list showing the names and designation of officials involved is enclosed. (*See* Appendix CXLVII, Annexure No. 46.)

During the course of searches, the following movable/immovable assets have been discovered:—

Movable assets: Rs. 184.90 lakhs

Immovable assets: Rs. 153.92 lakhs

Besides, a large number of incrimi--nating documents pertaining to transactions in movable/immovable assets and for showing undue official favours etc. were seized.

(c) 80 cases have been registered.

Commissions paid by TB Bofors

1209. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports and documents published in the Hindu dated the 22nd-23rd June, 1988 last and thereafter exposing the 'winding up' charges paid by AB Bofors as 'commissions' to General Anatronics and Svenska Incorporated revealing that payoffs were made right upto March, 1987;

(b) what was the party for whom Svenska and Moineau were a conduit and what was the role of the Hindujas in this affairs;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Bofors have misled the Attorney General of India and thus defrauded the Parliament regarding the payoffs;

(d) if so, whether an FIR against Bofors has been filed and the other follow-up steps are being taken; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if the answer to part (d) above be in negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (e) The Government have seen the material published in The Hindu on June 22-23, 1988, purporting to relate to agreements concluded by M|s Bofors with certain foreign and Indian firms and the alleged payments made by them to these firms. Necessary investigations into the published material have already been ordered by the Government. The course of further action will be based on the results of the on-going investigations.

Newsitem captioned another defence Scandal

1210. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article published in 'Sunday' weekly dated 3rd—9th July, 1988 under the caption 'Another Defence Scandal' and what are the details thereof; and

(b) whether any steps are being taken to abolish the system of commission in various defence deals as promised by Government and if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

The Cromemco computer system, an off-the-shelf available commercial system was selected on the basis of technical evaluation. Indian agents were not involved in the commercial negotiations leading to the contract.

(b) The entire issue is under consideration in the context of the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee established under Defence Secretary's chairmanship.

Award of defence contracts to foreign firms

1211. SHRI JASWANT SINGH:
SHRI A .G. KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had any dealings with, or have any contracts been awarded to the (i) SATT Electronic AB, (ii) Ericsson Radio Systems, (iii) Whitehead Moto Fides (Italy), (iv) Kollmorgen Corp (USA) (v) Teledyn Mec (USA) and (vi) SAFT SOGEA (France) firms, during the last three years; and

(b) whether the above firms gave any assurance that there is|was no Indian agent working for them for the contract?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) The requisite information is being collected.

Hike in charges by HDW in submarine deal

1212. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a press report which appeared in the Indian Express dated the 14th May, 1988 to the effect that Government approved the West German HDW submarine deal on June 30, 1980, the contract was signed six months later during which period the West German firm had hiked the charges on the supply of the spares steeply (by about 355 per cent); if so, what was the hike per submarine; and

(b) what were the compulsions to accept this unjustified hike and what was the competitor's offer on this account?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b) The Government have seen the press report under reference. The C&AG's Report (1986-87) on the Defence Services has commented upon cetrain matters regarding the procurement of SSK submarines fom M|s HDW of the Federal Republic of Germany. The issues arising from the Audit criticism are under examination of this Ministry in accordance with the procedure laid down for the processing of Audit Paras.

Allocation for industrial development

1213. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the total allocation for industrial development (in the Central Sector) in West Bengal during 1988-89; and

(b) the details of the programme?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) A statement indicating project|scheme-wise details of outlays during 1988-89 for Central industrial projects in West Bengal is enclosed.